

Charles Darwin – “On Origins of Species” – looked to explain the how and why of human/animal characteristics

From that a field of psychology known as the Evolutionary Psychology was created

Nature vs. Nurture – debate over heredity (biological makeup) and individual experience (shaped by environment) that determines our behavior/personality

Genetics/DNA cause/determine people’s behavior

Chromosomal defects result in personality/relational issues

### Research in Behavior Genetics

Family Studies –

Strains – inbred rats so genetic make up is smaller—researchers look for patterns in terms of characteristics

In humans, psychologists – Look to studies with twins (identical – monozygotic...coming from one zygote; fraternal – dizygotic...two different zygotes) and adoption studies

- Established that identical twins share 100% genetic make up, similar personalities, behavior, mannerisms, etc

Bouchard – Studies on twins during 1980s-90s

- Provides anecdotal evidence suggesting genetic makeup plays a significant role in determining personality and behavior

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Brain Plasticity – defined as one brain area takes over the functions of another damaged area; necessary because neurons do not regenerate.